

Tiverton Town Council Landfill Subcommittee

Regular Meeting Minutes: 19 April 2006

I: Call to Order

Chairman Wyman called the meeting to order at 3:25 PM at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: A. Wyman (Chairman), T. Ramotowski, R. Hart, and D. Wilbur.

Members absent: J. Fernandes, D. Webster (Director of Public Works) and W. G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

II: Approval of Minutes

MOTION 1:

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the 15 March 2006 regular meeting with the following corrections/clarifications:

Page 5, 5th paragraph, 3rd sentence: the word “to” should be changed to “in”; the word “no” should be changed to “not”; and the words “to RI-DEM” should be inserted near the beginning of the sentence after the word “explained.”

Chairman Wyman stated that he wished to clarify what he had said during the discussion on page 7 concerning “Alternative Landfill Cover Materials – Newport Housing.” Chairman Wyman stated that he wished the minutes to reflect that in cases where the Town has spent a considerable sum of money testing and seeking approval for use for fill that a contractor has indicated the Town would be receiving, but at some later date less than the full amount of promised fill actually is delivered to the Town, then the contractor should reimburse the Town for its testing/approval expenditures in an amount proportional to the amount of promised, but never delivered, fill.

Seconded by Mr. Ramotowski.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Hart asked who was going to be responsible for preventing ATVs and dirt bikes from being operated at the landfill outside of working hours, as indicated in

the March meeting's minutes. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that enforcement of the ban on dirt bike and ATV operation at the landfill was a Tiverton Police Department responsibility.

III: Additions/Changes/Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted without any changes or additions.

IV: Public Input

No members of the public were in attendance; therefore there was no public input.

V: Impacts of 01 April 2006 Implementation of Revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance

Chairman Wyman noted that implementation of the new landfill rules and hours of operation in general has gone smoothly. This does not mean that everyone in Town is happy with the changes – especially the ban on commercial trash and construction debris. Mr. Hart noted that a Tiverton police officer was stationed at the entrance to the landfill during the first week or so after the change had been implemented. Chairman Wyman stated that he had been told that there was only one minor incident in which the police officer had to actually speak to someone who was angry that he would be able to dump construction debris at the landfill. The man left after the officer spoke to him. Mr. Ramotowski asked if people had been calling members of the Town Council to complain about the changes. Chairman Wyman, a member of the Town Council, stated that he had not received any complaints via the telephone. No doubt, however, the landfill attendants have borne the brunt of people's anger and frustration concerning the changes.

Mr. Ramotowski asked how many vehicles had been turned away so far because they were being used to bring commercial trash and/or construction debris to the landfill for disposal. Mr. Hart stated that he had been told on the first Saturday after the new rules had gone into effect, about 40 vehicles had been turned away on that day alone. The landfill attendants had suggested perhaps allowing such people to dump their loads, but charging them for doing so, but the direction from the Town was clear that certain types of materials had to be refused.

Chairman Wyman reported that the Town Council had delayed approval of the RFP for trash/recyclables collection in Town. The delay had been requested by the Director of Public Works and the Town Administrator after the Town had received input from potential bidders that the allotted time for responses to the RFP was far too short. The RFP processing schedule had been devised so that the new contract could be awarded in June of 2006 so that there would be no break in collection services when the old contract expired on 30 June 2006. The Town Council has directed Mr. Webster and Mr. Steckman to enter into

negotiations with BFI (the current trash/recyclables collection contractor) to extend the present contract for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of one year. This extra time would be used to review and revise the new RFP. It would also allow bidders a sufficient amount of time to prepare careful and detailed responses, and also allow the successful bidder to purchase and take delivery of any equipment needed to provide all requested services under the contract.

Mr. Ramotowski noted that RI-DEM, as part of the new operating license for the landfill, will require the Town to drain all freons/CFCs/HFCs from refrigerators and other kinds of cooling equipment before such items can be disposed of. Previously, Mr. Webster had indicated that the Town did not have the required equipment, nor the trained/certified personnel necessary to perform this task. The new RFP will require the successful bidder to do that function on behalf of the Town, but the present trash/recyclables collection contract with BFI does not require BFI to perform this service. Who, therefore will be doing it until the new collection contract is in place?

Mr. Hart stated that the Town in the past did purchase the equipment needed to drain refrigerants; the equipment should still be around either at the landfill or at the DPW garage. Chairman Wyman stated that even if the equipment existed, we would still have to train someone to use it and get him or her certified to perform the task to the satisfaction of RI-DEM.

Chairman Wyman reported that the secretary at the DPW building was contacted by the School Department because they had a bunch of shelving and other miscellaneous items (including a piano) that they wished to dispose of at the landfill. The Town Administrator agreed that they could do so.

VI: Alternate Monitoring Results for 4th Quarter of 2005

Chairman Wyman stated that the Town had just received the monitoring results report from Pare Engineering, along with a report on the testing results for the entire 2005 calendar year. No one from the Town had as yet reviewed these documents. Chairman Wyman asked Mr. Ramotowski to review the reports on behalf of the Landfill Subcommittee and provide a brief report on any items of interest at the Subcommittee's next regular meeting.

VII: Re-licensing the Landfill – Discussion with RI-DEM

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the new operating license had actually been issued to the Town yet. Chairman Wyman stated that he had not seen any paperwork indicating that it had been issued yet. The Town is still working with RI-DEM to make sure it can meet the new requirements (discussed by Mr. Webster at the Subcommittee's March 2006 meeting) that will be incorporated into the new operating license.

VIII. Current Budget Status and Budget for FY 06/07

At this time, Mr. Steckman joined the meeting.

Mr. Steckman stated that a very tight fiscal situation for the next fiscal year had made it necessary to cut the amount of money being placed into the restricted account for landfill closure to the minimum amount required by RI-DEM (approximately \$168,000.00). Most of the other landfill related accounts have survived the budget process to date without significant changes. Some other DPW accounts/budget items were cut, including the paving account, and the money for a new bulldozer. The funding for a new backhoe is still in the budget.

Mr. Steckman reported that at a recent meeting, the Town Council had approved the transfer of \$44,000.00 from the DPW's sand and salt account to various landfill accounts to pay outstanding and expected bills for this fiscal year. That amount of money should be sufficient to cover all of the remaining landfill-related expenditures. Chairman Wyman noted that the money was available in that account because the 2005-2006 winter had been relatively mild as far as snow was concerned, so less sand and salt were used than was planned for in the budget. Before the transfer was made, the salt/sand shed was refilled to capacity using funds from this year's sand and salt account.

At this time, Mr. Steckman left the meeting.

IX: Alternate Landfill Cover Material – Newport Housing

There was no update on this issue due to the absence of Mr. Webster.

X: Adjournment

Chairman Wyman noted that the next meeting for the Landfill Subcommittee was scheduled for 3:00 PM on Wednesday, 17 May 2006 at the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Landfill Subcommittee's 19 April 2006 regular meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

These minutes were recorded and compiled by T. Ramotowski